

back on the road toward economic development. By providing incentives for trade and investment in Haiti's textile sector, this legislation will help to create jobs for Haitians struggling to recover from the earthquake.

I am very grateful to the Committee on Ways and Means for consulting with the domestic industry, listening to the concerns of American manufacturers, and crafting this bill so that it will benefit workers both in Haiti and in the United States. In addition, this bill continues the International Labor Organization's monitoring program, ensuring that the factories benefitting from U.S. trade preferences respect the fundamental rights of their workers.

Mr. Speaker, Haiti faces a long road ahead. On January 11, 2010, Haiti was already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere; a day later, the nation was left to cope with horrific devastation, loss of life, and trauma.

This bill is one way we can help Haitians rebuild their country and grow their economy. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2010, I was delayed due to circumstances beyond my control after participating in a hearing of the Committee on Agriculture in Cheyenne, WY. Unfortunately I was not present to vote on H. Res. 1307, H. Res. 1213, and H. Res. 1132.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

NATIONAL HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as National Huntington's Disease Awareness month.

As some of you may know, Huntington's Disease is a genetic, neurodegenerative disease that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 10 to 25 year period.

It is a rare disease, affecting 30,000 Americans and places another 200,000 at risk of inheriting it from an affected parent. Because it is a genetic disorder, Huntington's Disease profoundly affects the lives of entire families—emotionally, socially and financially.

This devastating disease has no treatment or cure and slowly diminishes an individual's ability to walk, talk, and to reason. Eventually, every person with Huntington's Disease becomes totally dependent upon others for care.

In my home State of California there are more than 117,000 individuals impacted by Huntington's Disease.

Last year, Congressman BILBRAY and I introduced H.R. 678, the Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009.

This legislation does two things. First, it directs the Social Security Administration to re-

vise and update the medical criteria for determining disability benefits for people with HD.

The second part of the legislation removes the 2-year waiting period before receiving Medicare benefits. This allows individuals to receive the treatment and care they desperately need.

In honor of National Huntington's Disease Awareness Month, I urge my fellow members of Congress to support H.R. 678 and help families across the Nation receive the critical benefits they need and deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN RELIEF SERVICES CHARITIES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christian Relief Services Charities for their 25 years of making a difference in the world to assist in the alleviation of human suffering, misery, disability, and pain by advancing and improving the welfare of all persons and the international community while preserving native cultures, heritages, customs and beliefs.

Christian Relief Services, celebrating their 25th anniversary, oversees and guides a family of nonprofits. It is considered to be among the top charities in the country and is one of the original accredited charities allowed to display the Better Business Bureau Charity Seal on all of its publications.

Americans Helping Americans builds and strengthens American Communities. It provides vital transitional housing to the homeless and victims of domestic violence in Virginia, and supports programs assisting the needy in a number of states, primarily in Appalachia, with emergency assistance, food, new shoes, blankets, winter coats, home repair, school supplies and efforts of self-sufficiency, assisting approximately 100,000 individuals. It provides affordable housing assistance to low and very low income working families located in Arizona, Kansas, Texas, Ohio and Virginia, and permanent housing for the homeless and chronically mentally ill adults in three group homes that the organization owns, located in Fairfax County.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth and the Cheyenne River Youth Project, provide financial, technical and administrative support to their many programs assisting American Indian families across the nation on and off reservations. They help fund water development, food pantries, youth enrichment programs, shelter, utilities assistance, emergency assistance, food, new shoes, winter coats, home repair, school supplies and supports efforts at self-sufficiency, promoting positive change to 200,000 individuals.

Bread and Water for Africa works with community-based grassroots organizations in Africa to provide basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, medical care, education and vocational training, lifting the despairing, wiping away sparse tears of the children, feeding the malnourished, changing sorrow into hope and benefiting hundreds of communities and many hundreds of thousands of people throughout Africa.

Christian Relief Services Charities has always been there with emergency assistance when the need is the greatest. Recently, they met the huge challenge of the earthquake in Haiti by quickly donating life-saving relief supplies. At a time of economic instability, it is comforting to know that their services serve the 8th Congressional District and beyond.

I am proud to salute the efforts of the staff, volunteers and the board of directors of Christian Relief Services Charities for their outstanding charitable work for a quarter of a century.

HONORING MRS. RAMONA HATFIELD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Ramona Hatfield, a finalist for the 2010 Military Spouse of the Year Award by Military Spouse Magazine. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to support her fellow military families and deserves our utmost gratitude and respect.

Ramona, who lives in Curtis Bay, worked resiliently to create a spouse club to support the morale and welfare of the Coasties in the Greater Baltimore Area, turning an idea and a handful of volunteers into a program that has benefitted thousands of families. Her work has provided emergent day care for families in crisis, holiday parties for families away from home and scholarships for both spouses and dependent children. Admired and trusted by military commanders, Ramona's colleagues consider her a "go-to" spouse for the things that matter most.

Ramona is instrumental in organizing special care for families in times of crisis. She is working to create a first-of-its-kind facility to provide affordable and reliable childcare for single or dual military families. In addition to coordinating the spouse and dependent scholarships each year, she operates a pantry that has provided free infant and toddler items to 1,500 military families to date.

Ramona's efforts are all the more remarkable considering her responsibilities at home. While caring for her mother, mother-in-law and her own household, Ramona volunteers at her church as a youth minister, belongs to the spouse organization, works full-time and plays an active role in her daughter's high school activities. Her colleagues say that Ramona puts her own needs aside to tend to the needs of others and lives each day to its fullest. Her friends and colleagues describe Ramona as a "ray of sunshine," "trustworthy" and "dependable." She exemplifies the Greater Baltimore Area's Coast Guard Spouse Association motto: unconditional love and support.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Ramona Hatfield. Her compassion and dedication to the Coast Guard community and her family is an inspiration to us all. It is with great pride that I congratulate Ramona Hatfield on her exemplary service to her community and our country.